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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

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<b>2001 Assembly Bill 496</b>	<b>Assembly Substitute Amendment 1</b>
Memo published: October 31, 2001      Contact: Pam Shannon, Senior Staff Attorney (266-2680)	

**2001 Assembly Bill 496** permits funeral directors to issue tuition vouchers for students who sound Taps at military honors funerals for deceased veterans. As introduced, the bill provides such vouchers to students at high schools, University of Wisconsin (UW) System institutions, in-state technical colleges and in-state private, accredited, nonprofit colleges or universities. The bill requires the UW Board of Regents or the Technical Colleges Board to grant a student a \$25 tuition remission for each voucher issued to the student. The vouchers are valid for six years and may be used for payment of tuition or required program activity fees at all of the higher education institutions listed above.

**Assembly Substitute Amendment 1** makes several changes to the bill. The substitute amendment:

1. Directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to create and provide copies of a tuition voucher form, and an explanation of the form's use, to all funeral directors. The DVA may not charge a fee for the tuition voucher form or for distribution of the form.
2. Makes students in grades 6 to 12 and beyond, rather than just high school students and beyond, eligible for the tuition vouchers.
3. Eliminates the six-year limitation on using the vouchers and instead provides that the vouchers may be used at any time for undergraduate education at UW System institutions and technical colleges.
4. Provides that vouchers may be issued to students at private higher education institutions and that DVA must encourage such institutions to accept the vouchers.
5. Specifies that the vouchers are not transferable.

6. Directs the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to encourage school boards to grant excused absences to pupils in grades 6 to 12 for the purpose of sounding Taps at military honors funerals.

The Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs adopted Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on a 9-0 vote and recommended the bill for passage, as amended, on a 9-0 vote, on October 30, 2001.

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